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THE UNITED SISTERHOOD OF PEACE

By ELLA H. DURLEY

A SOCIETY unique in its method of growth is the United Sisterhood of Peace, organized at Los Angeles in June, 1916. Each member pledges herself to secure six other members within a reasonable time, each of whom pledges herself to perform the same small service—for these members all promise to work untiringly for unity, peace, and harmony in their own neighborhoods, their own country, and throughout the world.

The Sisterhood of Peace was organized by Mrs. Ella Hamilton Durley, who drew to her aid seven women, who became the Mother Circle. Within a few days each of these ladies had chosen her own circle—a circle of seven, of which she became the Elder Sister, the first fifty thus coming into the organization becoming the charter membership.

The United Sisterhood of Peace has for its basic principle a belief in the sincerity of women in their declarations against war and in favor of the settlement of international questions by means of mediation through an international tribunal. Believing also that war is not the last word in human wisdom, members of this organization are happy to enter upon a definite constructive plan for universal and enduring peace. Returning European travelers say that throughout the belligerent countries there is a growing consciousness of the utter futility of bloody war. This is not strange. The loss of millions of lives, with no gain to any nation, is its strongest confirmation.

It is time that an equipment of peace should take the place of the existing machinery of war, and this the Sisterhood of Peace will do its part in furnishing.

The aim of the United Sisterhood of Peace is to "unify the women of California in 1916, of the United States in 1917, of North America in 1918, of South America in 1919, of Europe in 1920, of Asia in 1921, and the women of Africa and the islands of the sea in 1922—the world in seven years.

The motto of the Sisterhood is: "We have no prejudices; every woman is our sister and every man our brother."

Its system of growth is set forth in the following declaration: "We accept as our method the system of progression by multiples of seven. Wherever circles of this sisterhood may be organized, each member of each circle shall, within seven days, or soon thereafter, organize and become the responsible elder sister of a new circle, this rule and pledge to apply to each succeeding circle until the cause of unity, peace, and harmony shall everywhere prevail. Each member shall contribute her mite to the cause (ten cents annually), the fund derived from such contribution to be used by the Mother Circle in that country in extending and conducting the organization."

Following is the obligation members assume: "We pledge ourselves to be faithful members of the United Sisterhood of Peace; to organize and conduct circles in affiliation with the mother circle, and to work untiringly for unity, peace, and harmony in our own neighborhoods, our own country, and throughout the world, always thinking and speaking well of all persons, races, and nations, and forgetting their faults."

The plan lends itself to continuous growth. It only requires earnest, enthusiastic, optimistic effort. The society is now entering upon the work of extending the organization into every State of the Union.

Membership is promoted by means of numbered cards, signed by the Elder Sister, followed by the members of her circle. To each one a card is given of a higher number, which she, in turn, signs as Elder Sister, and proceeds to fill with her own circle. She also gives to each six cards of a still higher number, so that each will be provided with cards to continue her work. A circle may, if it desire, elect an Elder Brother.

One of the first to indicate his approval was that distinguished pacifist, Dr. David Starr Jordan, who became an honorary patron of the organization. Mr. Henry Ford and Mr. Wm. Jennings Bryan have both written expressing their high appreciation of the plan and their belief in its effectiveness.

The Sisterhood of Peace indulges in no hope of affecting the present situation. It is not an "endless-chain" system. It is not operated through the mails, and it has the approval of the postal authorities. Its modest little emblem, "U. S. P.," in white letters on a blue background, gives promise of making its influence felt throughout the world. Those who wish to have a part in extending the thought of peace until it shall girdle the world, should send to Mrs. Ella H. Durley, 1115 Westlake avenue, Los Angeles, Cal., for the necessary equipment in the form of membership cards. They will be sent free.

STATEMENT OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

Issued February 10, 1917, by the Fellowship of Reconciliation,
125 East 27th Street, New York City, "to Men and
Women of Goodwill Throughout
the United States"

IN THIS moment of national crisis it is in the heart of every true citizen to give his full measure of service to his country. The great Republic which we love is in its hour of trial. Its responsibility and need are calling for the highest loyalty of all. Yet there have been few moments in history when we could so little afford to render our country ill-considered service. What the United States now does may determine not simply its own course for a few years, but the future of nations, of whole peoples, of humanity for centuries. The primary duty of each of us is a dispassionate endeavor to penetrate through the maze of political complications to those fundamental principles of Christianity upon which only can national conduct of permanent value be based.

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The immediate legal issue is the right of American citizens to pursue their legitimate business on the high seas freely in accordance with international law. This is, without doubt, important enough; yet beside the deeper moral issues it sinks into relative insignificance. The crucial fact in today's world situation is not infraction of international rules, but contempt for humanity and ruthless disregard of moral and spiritual